energy links. It is also proposed to focus on improving regional trade through improved trade facilitation and increase people-to-people contact among the countries in the region.

3. The need for improved connectivity in the form of transport, transit and communication links across the region was recognized by the Heads of State and Government during the 12th SAARC Summit held in Islamabad and the 13th SAARC Summit held in Dhaka in January 2004 and November 2005 respectively. All decisions in SAARC are taken on the basis of unanimity.

4. Government are of the view that if South Asia is to become a dynamic component of the larger process of regional and international cooperation, it must bring about economic integration amongst the countries in the region. The first step towards this, in our view, is to substantially improve regional connectivity.

Brahmaputra Inland Waterways

*242. SHRI TARINI KANTA ROY: Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the time-frame for completion of Talweg Surveys, dredging etc. for implementation of Brahmaputra Inland Waterways in view of his D.O. No. F 20019/5/2007-MT dated 30.1.2007;

(b) the percentage of works already completed in view of the two years' time-frame fixed by IWAI for making National Waterways fully functional; and

(c) whether Government would consider to constitute a monitoring body with the elected representatives of Assam and West Bengal?

THE MINISTER OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI T. R. BAALU): (a) and (b) Regular talweg surveys are being done in the National Waterway No. 2(NW-2) from Dhubri to Sadiya on fortnightly basis. In alluvial rivers laden with heavy sediment load, which gets deposited in the navigation channel thereby reducing depth, regular survey is necessary to ascertain the water depth and identify the main channel. Dredging is required on shallow patches, which forms after every flood season. Presently, dredging in NW-2 is being done with the help of one hydraulic surface dredger

and one cutter suction dredger available with Inland Waterways Authority of India (IWAI). Procurement of more dredgers is under process for handling these shallow patches timely and more effectively. An Action Plan comprising of 16 projects at an estimated cost of Rs. 203.10 crores has been prepared for making the National Waterway fully functional. Out of these, 13 projects at an estimated cost of Rs. 178.25 crores have been sanctioned and are under implementation. Rs. 18.65 crores has been spent on these projects till 28th February, 2007.

(c) There are existing fora which include elected representatives for review of Inland Water Transport Sector and it is felt that at present there is no need to constitute another committee for monitoring purposes.

Construction of flyover at Badarpur border

*243. SHRI BASHISTHA NARAIN SINGH: Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the construction of a proposed flyover to be built at T-junction of Delhi-Faridabad-Jaitpur village (Badarpur border) at National Highway;

(b) the names of Government and Non-Government agencies involved therein;

(c) the proposed date of start of construction of the said project and the projected period of completion; and

(d) the strategies evolved to complete the proposed project in stipulated time?

THE MINISTER OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI T. R. BAALU): (a) It is proposed to construct a signal free elevated highway including approaches from km 16.100 to km 20.500 on NH-2 (Delhi-Agra Section) covering 5 major junctions including the 'T' junction of Delhi-Faridabad-Jaitpur Village at an estimated cost of Rs. 267 crore.

(b) The National Highways Authority of India is the implementing agency for the above project. The Support Agreement is to be signed by Government of National Capital Territory of Delhi and Government of Haryana. The clearances are also required from Delhi Development Authority (DDA), Delhi Urban Art Commission (DUAC) and Archeological Survey of India (ASI).